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WHAT DO WE SEE?

It requires vision and faith to lift the face of nature. I am continually startled by the opportunities which are spread before this organization. Opportunities through the application of newer knowledge which may in some cases overturn present scientific theories and practices, and in so doing improve the world in which we live, lie before us. Nature unaided by man brought trees westward into the Plains in general to about the 97th meridian. There is some evidence to the effect that with the removal of the vast herds of buffalo and with a decrease in prairie fires, tree growth began to extend its range naturally. It is also certain that settlement through indiscriminate use resulted in almost obliterating trees from some areas.

No less an authority than Dr. Bessey promulgated the theory that the sandhills, for example, were pretty well forested 300 or 400 years ago. Tree ring studies at the North Platte Substation indicate that a great drought around 600 or 700 years ago resulted in tremendous tree losses on the Plains.

The results obtained from tree planting under the "Tree Claim Act" show that even under the most superficial practices and where the major purpose was not to get trees but to get land, trees could be extended into treeless areas under certain conditions. It is certain that on favorable sites and where protected from fire and grazing, many of these early tree plantings have not only lived but are tending to perpetuate themselves. Undergrowth has come in, the original species are reproducing, and in some cases new species foreign to the areas are showing up. The extension of this process to the less favorable sites through the aid of increasing knowledge and scientific methods presents a wide range of intriguing possibilities. Certainly there are some areas where conditions are prohibitive, but between these and the favorable areas the field is wide open. And the field encompasses not only trees for field shelterbelts but trees in range areas for livestock protection; trees for ornamentals and for protection of homes; trees and shrubs for food and cover for diminishing wildlife, and so on through the whole gamut of purposes for tree establishment, the ultimate purpose of which is human betterment.

Fundamental research is needed by the Federal Government and the States. Agricultural colleges have carried on investigations for years and have developed all kinds of hybrids and strains of staple crops in order to adapt them to Plains conditions. They should be working with trees also, aiding the nurserymen and the farmers by fundamental studies.

I wonder sometimes if our own organization is keeping its collective eyes open. Are we making careful observations and developing possible leads as a basis for more fundamental study? If one idea out of a thousand pans out, it is a worth-while result.

I know that ideas are presented constantly for improving the current job, and that the current job is plenty tough. But we can also let our minds range out and envisage the job in the more distant future, and what it may take to accomplish what we envisage. Critical observations of what is taking place in the old plantations and even in some of our own older shelterbelts may furnish the basis for rapid improvement or for comprehensive study. What do we see as we go about our daily jobs?

- Paul H. Roberts, R.O.

BLACK LOCUST IN NORTHERN MICHIGAN

According to an article in the Planting Quarterly for April, 1939, there has been some planting of black locust for ornamental and windbreak purposes in the vicinity of Ontonagon, on the western end of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, during the last 25 years. On the south shore of Lake Superior, and with an average growing season of 140 days, Ontonagon is well north of the natural range of black locust, and an informal study was made to learn how well the trees are adapting themselves to the northern climate. Two areas were studied.

The first area is described as having sandy loam soil, fairly moist because of a high water table. Nine trees were measured there. They had been planted five years ago as one-year-old seedlings, and now range in height from 8 to 20 feet or an average height growth of 2.4 feet per year. All trees are in the open and in a thrifty condition, it was reported.

The trees on the second area, described as clay soil, ranged in age from 11 to 25 years and in height from 24 to 36 feet, with an average height growth of two feet per year. All but two trees were reported to be thrifty, the sickly pair apparently suffering from competition of larger trees surrounding them.

"The above rates of growth do not approach the growth that black locust makes in the central hardwood region," the writer concludes, "but they compare very favorably with other hardwoods of the Upper Peninsula."

This is interesting information in the light of our continuous search for new species and their adaptability to our work.

- Edwin C. Wilbur, Okla.

FACE VALUE NOT ALWAYS ACCURATE

The following statement appeared in one of the "Believe It or Not" sort of articles, and if it can be proved, would be a convincing way of bringing home the idea to the public.

"Because of the heavy transpiration that takes place in trees, an acre of forest releases into the atmosphere more moisture than an acre of a lake or river." - By Ralph Brown, Provo, Utah.

If the farmers get to thinking of their seven acres of shelterbelt as the equivalent of more than seven acres of lake, with respect to the air conditioning of crops, it might be the deciding factor for some who begrudge giving up the land for tree-planting use.

- Carl A. Taylor, Nebr.

(The statement quoted by Taylor is correct, but it is equally correct to say that an acre of lake surface may evaporate twice as much water as an acre of trees will transpire. This paradox is due to the amount of water available for the trees. The underlying thought that trees transpire a tremendous amount of water is not new to the general public. As a matter of fact, some of the early criticism of the Shelterbelt Project pointed out that our shelterbelts would serve as pumping plants to exhaust reserve moisture. This point has merit, in that where rainfall is limited and moisture has been meagerly stored over long periods, particularly in the tight soils, trees will draw upon that reserve moisture. This is well illustrated with the alfalfa fields and old open orchards grown under those conditions. Actually a tree uses about all the moisture that it can get. The variation in amounts from year to year is reflected in the growth. Conversely, the trees are able to adjust themselves to sustain life within this range. With reserve moisture lying under the zone of current rainfall penetration, say below six feet, the trees will draw upon that. If not, as is now commonly the case in the Plains country, the trees will adjust themselves to get along on current moisture. So, in some respects, the statement quoted by Mr. Taylor is true, but it can also be proved untrue. For example, the normal evaporation rate in a given area in the Panhandle of Texas may be 57 inches. This means that a pond an acre in extent uniformly 57 inches deep will have its water entirely evaporated in a normal year. In the same region, under the same rate of evaporation, we can grow an acre of trees dependent entirely upon current precipitation where the rainfall amounts to only 25 inches. In that case the acre of trees is transpiring less than one-half the amount of water that is being evaporated from an acre of free-water surface.)

- D. S. Olson, R.O.

A COSMOPOLITAN GROUP SEES PLANTINGS

Farmers, business men and representatives of various Governmental agencies gathered with the Forest Service at a dinner and tour of Oklahoma planting areas last month. The dinner was held at Elk City, Oklahoma, on the evening of June 8. After the meal, illustrated talks on shelterbelts were given, several cooperators expressed their opinions on the merits of their shelterbelts, and Indian Service representatives reported on the status of plantings made by the Indian agencies. This was followed by a lively round-table discussion.

The tour was made the following day, including plantings of all ages (1935 to 1939) in Washita County and the Hobart and Carnegie areas, terminating at the new 60-acre nursery site near Chickasha. In all, 35 people made the trip in spite of the rather disagreeable weather, and a closer fellowship between the various agencies has resulted.

Aside from Forest Service officials, farmers and business men, those on the tour included representatives of the State Forestry Division, Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service, and the Indian Service including representatives from the Pawnee, Kiowa and Concho agencies. Francis H. Flood, representative of the Oklahoma Farmer-Stockman, a widely influential farm magazine, was also an interested member of the party.

- Edwin C. Wilbur, Okla.

Remember the old saying: "A lazy man plants no trees, yet how he loves the shade."

- Letter in Mitchell, S. Dak.
"Daily Republic."

IF KIPLINGER SAYS IT, IT MUST BE RIGHT!

"Shelterbelt is making good. In 1935 it was pooh-pooed by many, including us, we are sorry to say. Yet now more than 100,000,000 trees, some 30 feet tall, are growing on over 20,000 farms from North Dakota to Texas. Eleven thousand miles of new tree strips, helping landscaping, crops and people."--Taken from The Kiplinger Agricultural Letter, dated June 24, 1939.

This constitutes what I think to be the greatest commendation of our work that has yet come out. The Kiplinger Agricultural Letter has always been most conservative and carries heavy nation-wide influence. Many leading business concerns, all educational institutions, and many people of prominence and influence take the Kiplinger service.

- A. L. Ford, S.Dak.

MAYBE AUTO DRIVERS SHOULD HELP, TOO

Shelterbelts planted along east-west section lines today can easily be conceived as creating "death trap" blind corners by restricting the vision of automobile drivers at road intersections. At present we allow the minimum space at the ends of the shelterbelts -- just enough room for turning cultivation equipment --, but that is not enough. As the trees grow taller and their foliage becomes more dense, visibility at intersections will be reduced so that it is entirely within reason to predict that numerous accidents will occur at those section-line intersections.

Many Kansas farmers in the past have trimmed luxuriant hedge rows for distances of 100 feet back from blind corners to increase drivers' visibility, and the Bureau of Public Roads was evidently thinking along this line when it recommended that the visibility range should be 1,000 feet on highway curves. Since travel on many section roads approaches that of highway travel, the desirability of revising the plan of our section-line shelterbelts becomes apparent.

Three possibilities for meeting the situation present themselves. Either we should plant the shelterbelts back from the section lines, or we should leave a 100-foot gap at the intersections, or we should revise the composition of the last 100 feet so that vision will not be obstructed. Obviously the first two suggestions are not satisfactory, but the third appears to be most feasible although it is not a complete solution of the problem. In high hazard areas, several if not all rows of tall species should be replaced with lower-growing shrubs and smaller trees. Perhaps this could be done best by tapering off the taller species, starting 100 feet from the intersection, so that a broad V-shaped opening will be created and vision increased for a distance of 100 feet in both directions without making too radical a departure from the shelterbelt design.

Where this type of hazard is likely to prevail, plans ought to be made to prevent future possible accidents now, before we go through another planting season.

- Karl F. Ziegler, Kans.

In 1829, Sir Robert Peel laid the foundation of what is the modern British police system. The London policeman has ever since been nicknamed a "bobby" or "peeler."

- Indian Smoke Signals.

ON GETTING IN A RUT

I think that nearly all of the touted Secrets of Success focus upon a single happy faculty - an ability to keep from getting into a rut. The chief brake on human progress - individually and collectively - is that form of mental lassitude which impels 98% of us to hammer the production job into such shape that it will get passable results with a minimum of thinking. The maxim "let well enough alone" is only the smug refuge of the mental escapist, and if universally observed would halt the world in its tracks. The "Model-T" Ford was plenty good enough in its day, in fact it was revolutionary. But no one wants to ride in one now. All the organizational genius in the world could not have kept the great Ford enterprise alive in the face of a philosophy that the Model-T was "good enough."

These reflections - probably not too original - are born of some developments in connection with our I & E work which bear all the earmarks of a comfortable settling down into a self-guiding rut.

Let us have a look at our demonstration trip form, for example. It contains a question regarding the reaction of participants, and time was when we practically psycho-analyzed the "tour-ee" and reported the result. But we have gotten over all that. Now the question is generally answered with a laconic "favorable," though occasionally some reporter unbends to the extent of a "very good" or even "excellent." And we are left to indulge our fancy as to whether the tripper waxed lyrical or merely refrained from expressing disappointment. I have seen the whole Regional Office set agog by some significant statement reported on this form - but not recently. We are certainly in a rut when it comes to answering that question, and - horrendous thought! - maybe even in exploring the participant's reactions.

One of the easiest places in the world to get in a rut is in the preparation of press publicity. It is fatally easy to get into a routine of a half-dozen subjects (which you finally come to dash off without the strain of any mental process whatever), and ride them to death. Big news, that you have never done before, is swirling about you every day in the week, but it takes a shot of hop in the think tank to recognize it and to beat it into shape to receive the accolade of printer's ink. I invite you to make a brief survey of your release file..... Is your face red?

And how about your addresses? Have you shaken down to a "lecture" that you could deliver, complete with gestures, in your sleep? It saves a lot of mental effort, but if you are springing it alike on service clubs and country schools, farm bureaus and sportsmen's organizations, you are pretty much making hash of your opportunities. Better a bum talk fitted to the audience than an inappropriate polished speech.

It is mighty pleasant to float downstream, and often the feat of merely staying afloat seems to offer sufficient personal satisfaction. But unfortunately, in this wooden world all the rewards are located up-river.

- E. L. Perry, R.O.

LIFE PHOTOGRAPHER GETS NEBRASKA STORY

Hansel Mieth, staff photographer for Life Magazine, and her husband, Otto Hagel, who is one of Fortune's ace photographers, spent July 2, 3 and 4

taking pictures of Nebraska shelterbelts in the vicinity of Orchard, Nebraska. A photo story based on the Arthur Helmrich farm is planned, and is expected to appear in Life Magazine sometime between July 15 and September 1.

The photographers chartered an airplane at the Norfolk airport and spent about an hour taking aerial views of the plantings. Weather conditions did not permit flying at an altitude sufficient to photograph a large area, so the aerial pictures probably will cover areas of approximately two miles square.

Many ground shots were also taken to show the harvesting of oats in the lee of a 1936 planting and other activities around the Helmrich farm. The photographers were of the opinion they had enough material for a good picture story.

As usual, Nebraska winds were accommodating and furnished the visitors with a good picture of a dust storm which would make even the "Dust Bowl" envious.

- E. Garth Champagne, Nebr.

THINNING (NOT DIETARY) RAISES ITS HEAD AGAIN

The value of thinning overdense stands of seedlings in the nursery has been one of the most controversial points in nursery practice. Thinning operations are at best exceedingly expensive and justification for this expense is often not recognized.

By this time I believe that, for the production of one-year hardwood stock, the nurserymen will agree that optimum stands range from 6 to 10 seedlings per foot. However thin the stand may be, there will always be "runts" which fortunately can be culled out. I say fortunately, because it is certainly an advantage to be able to pick out and discard weak trees by use of a selection based on such a tangible factor as caliper.

Meines' reference in June PLAINS FORESTER to a Lake States Forest Experiment Station Technical Note has little or no relation to our problems. The time to thin, all will agree, is as early in the seedlings' lives as is possible after the stand reaches a status of stability. The study described in the technical note involved thinning stands and comparative size obtained in the third year of their existence and this operation could not possibly give the stimulus to seedlings during a period that represents one-third of their nursery existence that thinnings on one-year stock would give where they live and grow in released conditions for the major part of their nursery lives. The conclusion reached in the above-mentioned technical note was, not that thinning at the proper time is unjustified but that thinning in the third year on dense stands of red and white pine does not pay dividends.

All of the studies carried out on this Project with thinning operations in hardwood stands have pointed out that the number of useables per foot is at least not decreased by thinning. Take Taylor's study at Fremont in 1937 on Osageorange (reported in PLAINS FORESTER, November 1937). Take my studies at Fremont in 1937 on density of stand and at Norfolk in 1938 on row spacing and density of stand. All of these point conclusively to the fact that thin, so-called "optimum" stands, produce at least as many and often more useables as do dense stands. It cannot be questioned that trees grown in optimum

stands are of better quality than those grown in dense stands. Size alone is not the determining factor as to the quality of a tree, but at present it is our only measuring stick. Until such time as the intangible factors of quality such as vigor, stored food, etc., can be used in grading seedlings, let's use logic in growing them to give them opportunity of becoming healthy, vigorous trees.

- Alba H. Briggs, R.O.

GENUS JACKRABBIT STYMIES HOMO SAPIENS

Anent the lament about jack rabbits voiced by Aubrey Coe of North Dakota: At least the North Dakota jack rabbits can be seen where they are! But down here in Oklahoma, they are different from any other creature in the PSFP (Personally Sworn Foresters' Phenomena). Out in the vast sand dune area they begin life, well equipped for the rigorous life in the Oklahoma "dust pan," and it seems as though their fur harbors a great quantity of spun glass. At any rate, something deflects the light so that a jack rabbit seems to be several feet from where he actually is.

More than one Shelterbelt Assistant has yearned for the quiet seclusion of a Colorado forest fire after having shot two boxes of shells at a rabbit that looked as big as a cow, and see him still sitting on his haunches, unconcernedly eating the tender leaves from the shelterbelt trees. And these same Shelterbelt Assistants -- anyway, some of them -- use guns as tackhammers at fifty paces.

Max Pfaender, Carl Regnier and Mike Thomsic have contrived a set of large mirrors and scarecrows (modeled after shelterbelt assistants) as a last resort to scare the "jacks" away. Maybe it'll work, but we also pin our hopes on the Indians' love for "jackburgers." The favorite recipe for "jackburgers" is equal parts of beef and "jack" -- one cow to one "jack."

- Roland C. Fry, Okla.

WEDDING BELLS JINGLE IN NEBRASKA OFFICE

Ray W. Smith, administrative assistant in the Nebraska State Office, has taken unto himself a bride, the former Miss Josephine Schlesselman of Lincoln, Nebraska. Announcements were sent out the middle of July, telling that Ray and Josephine had taken the vows May 20 at Papillion, Nebraska, unbeknownst to their friends. By the time the news became public property, however, they were safely on their way to the San Francisco Fair for a honeymoon.

Mrs. Smith is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Schlesselman of Lincoln, and for a time was a member of the Nebraska State Office staff. Mr. and Mrs. Smith will be at home after September 1 at 2017 West Second Street, Grand Island, Nebraska.

PLAINS FORESTER joins with other members of the PSFP in wishing the newlyweds much happiness.

"If you copy verbatim (word for word) that's plagiarism.
If you leave out a few words here and there, that's research."

- Reg. 9 "Daily Contact"

A FORESTER IS NATURALLY MODEST, BUT -

"Joyce Kilmer wrote in his famous and familiar poem 'Trees': Only God can make a tree. We are not denying the distinguished poet's idealistic word thought, but out here in the sweeping prairies of North Dakota God needs a powerful lot of assistance in growing His trees, and to our notion His best agent is Uncle Sam's Forest Service."

Thus begins a letter from Mr. and Mr. D. H. Potter, publishers of the Casselton (N.Dak.) Reporter to Mr. Silcox. A copy of the letter has been received by the Regional Office, and the Potters' remarks are not calculated to engender an inferiority complex. After reviewing the progress in the Casselton district, the letter gloriously supports the shelterbelt program. Other parts of the communication follow:

"The eagerness with which the farmers have heralded the shelterbelt planting is best conveyed, we believe, in the words of one farmer who said, 'All other field work halted on my farm when it came time to prepare the ground for the new shelterbelt planting.'

"In answer to the query, Why did you enter the shelterbelt program the following composite answer, we believe, best tells the story: (1) to begin with all those trees will make my farm estate more beautiful; (2) they will enhance the value of my farm; (3) the shelterbelt will hold snow in winter, rain in spring, summer and fall; (4) it will decrease evaporation and permit the moisture to sink into the ground; (5) the trees will prevent the winds from stripping from the farm its surface soil; (6) the trees will attract and build up natural habitat for wild game and birds; (7) there will be protection on the lee side for livestock in winter; (8) the trees will furnish fence posts and fuel for the farm, and (9) can be used for minor repairs on the farm. From the commercial angle we add to this that the employment of large crews of men brings money to town.

"From these answers we gather that beyond doubt the shelterbelt project by the United States Forest Service is a boon to the farmers and people living in the farm area. It will save the country from becoming Sahara the second.

"One of the outstanding examples of pioneer tree planting is the ancient grove at the Iver Madson farm near Wheatland. This planting was done about 1878 and today the grove, about one-half mile long, is one of the beauty spots and potent attractions of the prairies. The trees have been let to grow and the grove is virgin and has that woodsy smell that fills the nostrils and fairly penetrates the soul. Saw many pheasants darting through the deep and rank underbrush. The place was alive with birds whose golden notes filled the languid summer air. We visioned the new planted shelterbelts as the future generations will enjoy them. Only God can make a tree but it takes the United States Forest Service to plant them in the right places."

- H. J. Swan, R.O.

STANDARDS UNDER DISCUSSION

Since PLAINS FORESTER is an open forum for discussion of our work, I would like to say something about our standards. For example, take the following quotation from "S, Plans, Planting" letter of August 15, 1938, dealing with width of shelterbelts and standard composition:

"Two rows of cottonwood and one row of black locust, Chinese elm, and similar species have as their primary purpose, height to the structure and quick effectiveness ----- . The interior shrub or bush tree row has been planted there to cover the tall open trunks of the cottonwood. It should be noted that the so-called temporary part of the structure is on the field side so that if and when this is removed and this part is not replaced, it does not leave an idle strip between the fence and the permanent belt or through the middle, but reverts to the field."

In our analysis we break a shelterbelt into three classifications: (1) Permanent species, (2) semi-permanent species, and (3) temporary species. The last four rows on the leeward side fall into the third class, and the species designated for this part of the shelterbelt are Chinese elm, cottonwood and, for row 10, osageorange, mulberry or Russian olive. Yet, these species are also found in the permanent part of the shelterbelt. Why this discrepancy? Why not put Chinese elm in row 10, since farmers object to osageorange or mulberry on the field side and shrubs have always been at a premium?

- Edwin C. Wilbur, Okla.

FROM THE EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

When John Steinbeck wrote "Grapes of Wrath," a story telling of the hardships of emigrants from the "dust bowl" to California, he furnished the New York Sunday Mirror with a handle for a shelterbelt pictorial. "Trees Hold Back Desert's Advance; Farmers in the Dust Bowl Area Have Learned How to Hold Onto Their Land," is the heading. One of the pictures shows a refugee family's plight; the others are shelterbelt pictures from South Dakota and Nebraska and are by no means the best pictures those States could have furnished. Presumably they were selected at Washington by a correspondent of the Mirror. Although the pictures are not what they could have been, and the statistics that were used in the brief explanation are a year old, the story of what the trees are doing carries as lusty a punch as Joe Louis ever possessed.

* * *

The Sunday Mirror "spread" and numerous other stories which have appeared during the last year bring to our attention more forcibly than ever the fact that outside of the Plains, the whole region is referred to indiscriminately as the "dust bowl." Once the whole public realizes that we are not trying to grow trees in the real "dust bowl," perhaps our lot will become easier.

* * *

Chasing cats is "more dog-gone fun" for Dave Olson's coal black dog, Cinders, and for nigh onto five years no feline has been permitted to tarry on the Olson premises. Cinders has always received due praise from the family for his guardianship of the home grounds, so now he can't quite understand his ostracism on the Fourth of July and for several days thereafter, because after all it was a cat that he treed near the Olson's front door that morning. What if its first name was Civet? Anyway, the Olson family, preparing for a holiday outing, were apprised that something was amiss by the pungent odor that rode into the house on the gentle breeze. Dave investigated, and found Cinders smelling to the high heavens but still standing guard with the "kitty" in the tree. The civet cat was summarily dispatched, and the family outing was started pronto. Cinders, however, was left behind for the first time in his life--he can't understand, and he's still resentful.

* * *

A bang-up story about the shelterbelt program, written by Mr. Silcox, appeared in the July-August issue of "The Nation's Agriculture," official organ of the American Farm Bureau Federation. The Chief gives a good account of the shelterbelt program and its progress in a magazine which is to agriculture a great deal like what "The Nation's Business" is to business men.

* * *

State Director Webb of Texas comes close to qualifying as a chautauqua speaker, after his experiences in recent weeks. He just sent in a report, showing that he had addressed gatherings at eight colleges in Texas, hand-running. One of them was Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College, the rest, state teachers' colleges. A total of 784 people heard his talks. Most of those in the audiences, with the exception of attendants at the West Texas State Teachers' College, were totally unacquainted with the shelterbelt program, or at best had only a hazy idea of what it was all about, Mr. Webb explains, but they perked up when it was explained to them. For the most part, his listeners were school superintendents and teachers studying for advanced degrees, and some are certain to carry the gospel of the shelterbelt program to parts of the State where little is known of it. Texas, you know, is almost a nation in itself and the east and west sides are so far apart as to almost warrant a divorce.

* * *

A few pointers on conducting simple experiments in the field are given in a letter by an old friend of the PSFP, Lee Kirby, Supervisor of the Tonto National Forest in New Mexico. Lee's tips might be of use to shelterbelt workers, so here goes:

"At present the range lands are dry at the surface and to a considerable depth. When the first summer rains begin, it will be possible during a period of from six to twenty-four hours afterward to dig down and measure exactly the depth to which the rains have soaked. Here is a test you can make: Take a shovel; pick two spots -- one where the ground has a good cover of vegetation to retard runoff of rainfall, and the other, within from six to forty feet of the first one, where the ground is bare, or nearly so, (perhaps across a fence) where the soil and slope are about the same, so that the only difference is in the vegetative cover. Press your shovel straight down so that there will be one edge of the hole vertical, on which you can measure the depth to which the ground is wet. Try this in from a dozen to thirty pairs of places. Write down the vegetative and bare measurements in separate columns, then average them up. This will cost nothing. It takes only two or three hours. The only equipment needed is a shovel. It will be your own experiment. You will be accountable to no one for the results and can analyze the measurements in your own way. This is a bit of very simple research you can do on your own and I am confident it will be both interesting and informative and that you will be glad you made the experiment."

It's an idea -- . Simple experiments so often lead to important discoveries.

* * *

When John A. Maddox, secretary of the Oklahoma State Nursery Association, spoke to the meeting of the western Oklahoma vocational agriculture teachers at Clinton, Oklahoma, a few days ago, he is credited with one of the most interesting statements we have ever read. He was quoted in the Clinton Daily Press as saying that the work of the U. S. Forest Service in shelterbelt and farm forestry projects "is so satisfactory that the state nursery association is going to get behind it." Maybe that assertion heralds approach of the time when the PSFP and the nurserymen can drink from the same cup with perfect confidence. We hope so.

And, incidentally, the agriculture teachers decided to include shelterbelt instruction in their youth and adult classes.

* * *

By way of the Texas Office, Thomas Croker, Jr., Childress District Officer, passes along some information about one tenant farmer who has discovered that he has a personal interest in a shelterbelt as well as has the landlord. The information came first from Marvin Angle, subdistrict officer at Paducah, who said:

"J. H. Conway, tenant on the W. B. Combest farm, five miles north of Paducah, has $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 1937 shelterbelt. Mr. Conway stated this week that he never had much use for shelterbelts until the recent hot, dry weather, which was accompanied by a drying southwest wind. During this period he observed that his shelterbelt broke the force of the hot, dry wind and saved about 75 or 80 acres of some 100 acres of cotton from blowing out. The belt had not been given proper attention in the way of cultivation up to that time, but it is now felt very strongly that Mr. Conway will do an excellent job of cultivation."

* * *

And in Oklahoma, the business men of western Washita County have launched a "better shelterbelt" contest to stimulate farmer interest in caring for their trees, by offering \$50 to be awarded in four prizes for the best cared-for shelterbelt this year. Postcards announcing the contest were sent to all cooperators by the Secretary of the Cordell Chamber of Commerce, who is heading up the contest. It costs nothing for the farmers to enter into the competition.

* * *

KANSAS RINGING THE DINNER BELL!

Numerous edibles are to be found nowadays in Kansas shelterbelts. Topping the list are discreetly placed melons "clinging to de vine," which are stumbled onto occasionally, and then there are lots of mulberries to be had for the picking. The wild plum trees, in straight row and with new found dignity, display their offerings, while the American plum trees refuse to be outdone by their relatives and have set fruit this year. Then, there are to be found currants which pucker the lips.

Other shelterbelt trees and shrubs are laden with potential progeny, too. They include hackberry, catalpa, tamarix, sumac and willow, the last named an interloper in the ranks through the expediency of passing itself off as a cottonwood wildling.

- Paul S. Slabaugh, Kans.

1939 PLANTING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Here are some figures on the 1939 planting season, tabulated by the Division of Timber Management. The total number of trees planted was 46,506,711, of which 32,397,246 went into new shelterbelts and 14,109,465 were used for replanting and filling in blank rows of 5,366.5 miles of previously planted belts with the replanting work done entirely by the co-operators in 266 miles.

Miles of shelterbelts planted totaled 4,082.5, occupying 54,128 acres of land. The number of farms served, on which no planting had previously been done, is 6,733. The following table gives the planting record by States:

<u>State</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Farms*</u>	<u>Trees</u>
North Dakota	550.13	7,309	798	5,098,703
South Dakota	801.00	11,213	1,448	6,342,933
Nebraska	1,009.75	12,751	1,733	7,363,300
Kansas	781.00	10,425	1,286	6,493,340
Oklahoma	508.62	6,816	905	3,524,370
Texas	432.00	5,614	563	3,574,600

Total 4,082.50 54,128 6,733 32,397,246

(*Only farms on which no previous planting had been done are included.)

In the nurseries, it is reported, sowing for the production of 60 million trees was completed in the spring. Some of the nurseries suffered severe losses from hail, wind, and rain storms, part of the losses being replaced by resowings.

Lowering of the hand-hoeing costs is seen in the efficiency of the grape and berry hoes. It is now estimated that row cultivation requirements have dropped from 90 man-hours to 30 man-hours per mile.

FORESTERS' ANNUAL MEET AT SAN FRANCISCO

The annual national meeting of the Society of American Foresters will be held in 1939 at the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco on November 23, 24, and 25. The California Section of the Society extends a cordial invitation to all foresters, lumbermen, and others interested in forestry to attend this national meeting.

A program of wide interest has been built around the general theme of "The Next Thirty Years in Forestry." Speakers from various forest agencies and the lumber industry will lead the discussions of prospective developments in lumbering and forest conservation.

The date of the national meeting has also been selected to enable visitors to attend the Golden Gate International Exposition. The latter part of November will be an ideal time to enjoy the numerous features of this World's Fair on Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay. Field trips to lumbering operations in the Redwood Region and to various other places of interest in California will also be available for visitors.

- S.A.F. Release

OKLAHOMA FORESTERS GET SOILS TIPS

Professor Horace J. Harper, head of the soils division of Oklahoma A. & M. College, conducted one-day soils training conferences for the Forest Service at Elk City, Mangum and Carnegie on June 14, 15 and 16.

A thorough discussion of Oklahoma soils and their adaptability to tree growth was given by Dr. Harper each morning, his talk being illustrated by numerous slides and charts. In the afternoons, field trips to inspect the various types of soils were taken. These were especially important for our land examiners, as Dr. Harper dug a number of holes in several of the shelterbelts to illustrate the various soil types. In some of the belts, sections of the cottonwood rows are dying and investigation showed the soil "too tight" for that species.

Before the conferences opened, Dr. Harper spent several days in the field so that he could present data as to the clay content of soils at both good and poor tree sites. Some of the most valuable pointers the foresters received were on how to determine the clay content by the feel or by "leafing" the moist soil. Dry soil must be moistened before this test can be applied. Soils were tested for alkilinity, pore space was discussed, and how the depth of the topsoil is determined by color was explained.

Every member of the Oklahoma organization who participates in site examination work attended the meetings -- in fact, the Mangum group took in all three field trips. All are of the opinion that the quality of site examination will be improved because of these meetings.

- Max Pfaender, Okla.

EXTRA! SHELTERBELT SAM PASTES DIXIE RANGER

"I wish to Heck," says Shelterbelt Sam, our puissant Chief of the Division of Bulletin Readers, "that the fellers that write in these here Regional Bulletins would shoot where they're looking. I see a headline in the Dixie Ranger last month that says 'Notes from the French Broad,' but though I read the article three-four times, it's still about nothing no more interesting than putting out a couple of fires. I was all set to raise plenty of fuss if them notes turned out to be what I hoped they wouldn't, and I shore hate to be disappointed thataway."

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Speaking on public relations, Paul V. Barrett, director of personnel of the Ohio Oil Company, recently said to the Salt Lake Rotary Club:

"Public relations is right thinking by the management. Public relations is the acceptance of civic, social, and humanitarian responsibilities as well as economic ones. Public relations is not a specialized department such as finance, engineering, or accounting, but it is an operating philosophy on the part of the management which insists upon right dealings with material, right dealings with money, and right dealings with men."

- Region 4 "Daily News"

MAN WANTED

A man for hard work and rapid promotion, who can find things to be done without the help of a manager and assistants.

A man who gets to work on time in the morning and does not imperil the lives of others in an attempt to be first out of the office at night.

A man who listens carefully when spoken to, and asks only enough questions to insure accuracy in carrying out instructions.

A man who moves quickly and makes as little noise as possible about it.

A man who looks you straight in the eye and tells the truth every time.

A man who does not pity himself for having to dig in and hustle.

A man who is cheerful, courteous to everyone, and determined to make good.

If interested, apply any hour, anywhere, any place, to anyone.

- California Ranger.

REGIONAL OFFICE DOINGS

The Boys Have It. Another name was added to the roster of PSFP progeny, in the person of young Christopher Warren Barnes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Warren E. Barnes, as of June 26, 1939. This addition further increases the already long list on the side of the ledger headed "Boys."

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Loretta Nobles and Miriam Morey were honored at a surprise party at the home of Mildred Stamper in late June, the first in honor of her forthcoming marriage, and the latter for her change of duty status from Stenographer to Housewife. The week preceding the party was tense with excitement as Loretta was endeavoring to surprise Miriam, and vice-versa. Bingo occupied a large part of the evening, but the main event was the mock wedding ceremony, complete with Lohengrin on the ocarina. Thanks, WBI, for the derby; it made a handsome preacher out of Edna Dundis. Olive Peterson gave away the blushing bride, Beulah Bowen, who forgot her boquet, and Lucille Clark, wearing her husband's way-too-large shoes to give the masculine touch, was the groom.

Loretta received a number of lovely shower gifts, and Miriam was presented with a piece of Pyrex ware. Miriam was later presented with a Numdah rug as a parting gift from the entire office.

- Lucille E. Clark, R.O.

Postage stamps were first generally used in England in 1840 as a means of prepaying the postage; and in the United States in 1847. Before that postage was paid by the person receiving the letter and the amount varied according to the distance travelled by the communication. The first American stamp bore a portrait of Benjamin Franklin.

- Indian Smoke Signals.